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- Utility Patent Specification -

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Invention:

**VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE HOLDER
ASSEMBLY WITH ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
REQUEST MECHANISM**

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Description

**VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE HOLDER ASSEMBLY
WITH ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE REQUEST MECHANISM**

5 **Technical Field**

The present invention relates to emergency equipment for vehicles and more particularly to a vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism that includes a vehicle mountable housing assembly having a back lighted "HELP" sign and a pivoting license plate bracket having two pivoting arms each pivotally connected at a housing connection end to the vehicle mountable housing assembly and pivotally connected at a support plate connecting end to a side of a license plate support plate adapted such that the license plate support plate is movable between a "HELP" sign covering position and a "HELP" sign revealing position; the license plate support plate having license plate attachment apertures for allowing attachment thereto of a vehicle license plate; the back lighted "HELP" sign including a light source that is operable in either a continuous or a blinking mode.

20 **Background Art**

It is often necessary for a vehicle operator to signal to passing vehicles that the vehicle operator is in need of help. It

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Inventor: **Meester**

would be desirable, therefore to have a "HELP" requesting sign or the like that may be displayed so that passing motorists have an opportunity to view the request and either directly render assistance or to call an assistance providing organization, such as
5 the police, to request they send assistance to the vehicle location. Because help may be needed when it is dark, it would be a further benefit to have a "HELP" requesting sign that was illuminated in either a continuous or a blinking manner to make it visible in the dark. Because it would be desirable to hide the
10 "HELP" sign when it is not needed, it would further be desirable to have such a "HELP" sign that was hidden behind the vehicle license plate when not in use but which could easily and rapidly be displayed when needed.

General Summary Discussion of Invention

15 It is thus an object of the invention to provide vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism that includes a vehicle mountable housing assembly having a back lighted "HELP" sign and a pivoting license plate bracket having two pivoting arms each pivotally connected at a housing
20 connection end to the vehicle mountable housing assembly and pivotally connected at a support plate connecting end to a side of a license plate support plate adapted such that the license plate

support plate is movable between a "HELP" sign covering position and a "HELP" sign revealing position; the license plate support plate having license plate attachment apertures for allowing attachment thereto of a vehicle license plate; the back lighted
5 "HELP" sign including a light source that is operable in either a continuous or a blinking mode.

Accordingly, a vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism is provided. The vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request
10 mechanism includes a vehicle mountable housing assembly having a back lighted "HELP" sign and a pivoting license plate bracket having two pivoting arms each pivotally connected at a housing connection end to the vehicle mountable housing assembly and pivotally connected at a support plate connecting end to a side of
15 a license plate support plate adapted such that the license plate support plate is movable between a "HELP" sign covering position and a "HELP" sign revealing position; the license plate support plate having license plate attachment apertures for allowing attachment thereto of a vehicle license plate; the back lighted
20 "HELP" sign including a light source that is operable in either a continuous or a blinking mode.

Brief Description of Drawings

For a further understanding of the nature and objects of the present invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying
5 drawings, in which like elements are given the same or analogous reference numbers and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of the vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism of the present invention along with a
10 representative vehicle licence plate.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism of Figure 1 with the license plate support plate thereof moved between the "HELP" sign covering position and the "HELP" sign revealing
15 position.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism of Figure 1 secured to the rear of a truck, the representative vehicle license plate secured to the license late support plate,
20 and the license plate support plate positioned in the "HELP" sign covering position.

Exemplary Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

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Figures 1-3 show various aspects of an exemplary embodiment of the vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism of the present invention, generally designated 10, and a representative vehicle license plate, 5 generally designated 12, having four attachment bolt passage apertures 14 provided therethrough and four securing bolt/nut assemblies 16 .

Vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism 10 includes a vehicle mountable housing assembly, 10 generally designated 18, having a back lighted "HELP" sign, generally designated 20, and a pivoting license plate bracket, generally designated 22, having two pivoting arms 24a,24b. Each pivoting arm 24a,24b is pivotally connected at a housing connection end 26 to vehicle mountable housing assembly 18 and pivotally 15 connected at a support plate connecting end 30 to a side of a license plate support plate, generally designated 32, that is adapted such that the license plate support plate 32 is movable between a "HELP" sign covering position (shown in Figure 3) and a "HELP" sign revealing position (shown in Figure 1).

20 License plate support plate 32 has four, elongated license plate attachment apertures 36 for allowing attachment thereto of vehicle license plate using the securing bolt/nut assemblies 16.

Back lighted "HELP" sign 20 includes a light source 44 having a three-position switch to allow the light source to be placed in the off mode, the continuous illumination mode, or a blinking illumination mode.

5 It can be seen from the preceding description that a vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism has been provided.

It is noted that the embodiment of the vehicle license plate holder assembly with roadside assistance request mechanism
10 described herein in detail for exemplary purposes is of course subject to many different variations in structure, design, application and methodology. Because many varying and different embodiments may be made within the scope of the inventive concept(s) herein taught, and because many modifications may be
15 made in the embodiment herein detailed in accordance with the descriptive requirements of the law, it is to be understood that the details herein are to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.